

Coming (and Past) Events

Editor's Note: The following information about events is an edited version of what was sent by the organizers. Since this issue of DSQ is nearly a year late, 1997 events are reported in the past tense.

On October 17-18, 1997, the disability studies sessions at the Social Science History Association meeting were held. They were:

Exclusionary Boundaries; Chair: Martha Edwards; Deborah Metzel, Spatial Outcomes of People with Mental Retardation; Brad Byrom, Mendicancy and the Deserving Beggar in Progressive America; Pamela Walker, The Social Meaning of Place and Community Experiences of Adults with Developmental Disabilities; Glenn Smith [in absentia], Chronic Illness in Lived Spatial Context; Michael Dorn, commentator.

Definitions of Disability in Cultural Context; Chair: Brad Byrom; Simi Linton, Divided Society; Beth Omansky Gordon and Karen Rosenblum, Ignoring Disability: An Impaired Sociology?; Michael Dorn, A Space-Economic Approach to Interpreting Representations of 'Disability' in U.S. History; Staffan Forhammar, Organized Philanthropy in Sweden in the Late Nineteenth Century; and Phil Ferguson, The History of Hopelessness: Disability and the Social Construction of Therapeutic Failure, 1850-1950; Martha Edwards and Patrick Devlieger, co-commentators.

The Caucus on Disability Issues was formed by members of the National Communication Association (NCA) to accomplish two goals: 1) to promote greater participation by people with disabilities in NCA and the discipline at large, and 2) to encourage quality scholarship on communication and disability issues. The first Caucus on Disability Issues Business Meeting met on November 20, 1997, for the election of officers and to make decisions about the future direction. The first panels offered at the NCA (November 20-22, 1997) are listed below. More information can be obtained from Jim Ferris (jvferris@facstaff.wisc.edu).

Disability, Employment and the Centrality of Communication Research, David W. Worley, Rebecca Bruflat, Kelly Herold, Kara Shultz, Carla Ross, Charles J. Stewart.

Lessons from the Past and Perspectives on the Future: Communication and Disability Research, Teresa L. Thompson, Dawn O. Braithwaite, John W. Smith, Beth A. Haller, Susan A. Fox, James Ferris.

From the Margins to the Center: Disability, Culture and Discourse, Kathryn A. Wiss, Maddy Cahill, Marie Westhaver, Beth Haller.

Notes from the Margins: A Performance Hour, Heidi M. Rose, Kenneth Crannell, Marie Westhaver, Mindy E. Fenske, Keith Pounds, Marsha Holtgrewe, James Ferris.

The following sessions on disability studies were held at the Modern Languages Association Convention in Toronto, Canada, December 27-30, 1997. For more information about planned sessions for the 1998 convention in San Francisco, please contact Sharon Snyder at shsnyder@nmu.edu or 906-227-1289, or any of the current members on the MLA Committee on Disability Issues in the Profession.

Bodies Built for Sin; Chair: Mark Jeffreys, University of Alabama, Birmingham; Shaindy Rudoff, New York University, Marked by Sin: The Bible Politics of Slavery in Douglass's Narrative; Ruth Phyllis Haber, Worcester State College, Suffering Saints and Twisted Sisters: Sexuality and Disability in Victorian Fiction; Alexandra Schultheis, University of Rochester, Disfigurement, Corruption, and Idealization of the Postcolonial Body in Salman Rushdie's *The Moor's Last Sigh*.

Shadow and Substance: The Body and Corporeal Difference; Chair: Michael Berube, University of Illinois, Champagne-Urbana; Simi Linton, Hunter College, Disability Studies: Reassigning Meaning; Susan Crutchfield, University of Michigan, Color-Blindness as 'Passing' Fancy: Race and Blindness in American Cinema; Robert J. Scholnick, College of William and Mary, In Perfect Health Begin: Walt Whitman and the Dis-ease of the Perfect Body; Kathleen Keating, University of California, Irvine, Autobiographical Acts: Disability, Class, and Genre in William Dodd's "A Narrative of the Experience and Sufferings of William Dodd, A Factory Cripple, Written by Himself."

In the Realm of the Senses: Inscribing the Subject of Disability; Chair: G. Thomas Couser, Hofstra University; Anne Ruggles Gere & Cynthia Margaret Gere, University of Michigan, Living with Fetal Alcohol Effect: Visual and Verbal Narratives; Brenda Jo Brueggemann, The Ohio State University, Are You Deaf or Hearing? Sue B. Walker, University of South Alabama - Mobile, The Site or Place of Being [Dis]Able: [Un]Bounded by the Word; Georgina Kleege, The Ohio State University, Here's Looking At You.

Discourses of Disability in the Eighteenth Century; Chair: Lennard J. Davis, State University of New York, Binghamton; Ashley Kay Stockstill, University of California, Riverside, Beautiful Freaks, Bluestocking Feminism: Sara Scott's Fetiche and Narratives of Utopian Capitalism; Lennard J. Davis, State University of New York, Binghamton, Johnson's Twitches and Amelia's Nose: Cases in Point; Rajani Sudan, University of Texas, Arlington, Disabling Desire.

Freaks and Discourse; Chair: Rosemarie Garland Thomson, Howard University; Benjamin D. Reiss, University of California, Berkeley, Abolition and the Freak Show in Antebellum America; Laurel Meredith Erickson, University of Michi-

gan, *Of Angels and Pig-Faced Ladies: Disordering Victorian Desire*; Rachel Adams, Columbia University, *Freaking Beloved: Race, Disability, and Community*; Leonard Cassuto, Fordham University, Lincoln University, *Oliver Sacks: The P.T. Barnum of the Postmodern World*.

Waist High in the World with Nancy Mairs: A Special Event; Presiding: Ellen J. Stekert, University of Minnesota; Speaker: Nancy Mairs, University of Arizona; Respondent: Louise deSalvo, Hunter College, CUNY.

Empire State College, State University of New York, announces its Fourth International Conference: Disabled, but Enabled and Empowered, Building Common Ground for the Millennium 2000, Fostering the Inclusion of People with Disabilities was held March 19-22, 1998, in Rochester, NY. Keynote speakers were: John Hockenberry, Correspondent, NBC, CNBC and MSNBC; Heather Whitestone McCullum, Miss America, 1995; James Dickson, Program Director, Community Integration, National Organization on Disability; Judith Heumann, Assistant Secretary of Education, U.S. Department of Education; John Lancaster, Executive Director, President's Committee on the Employment of People with Disabilities.

A down-loadable registration form can be found on the conference web page. For more information on registration, continuing education units (CEU's), and a listing of undergraduate and graduate courses which can be pursued in connection with the conference, please contact: Conference Web site www.esc.edu/disabled/ or call (716) 244-3884 ext 113 or call (716) 271-3011 to leave a message 24 hours a day or Fax (716) 473-1949 or email Disabled@sescva.esc.edu on the Internet.

The Harry & Jeanette Weinberg 1998 Tools for Life Expo was held on March 25-26, 1998, in the Blaisdell Exhibition Hall in Honolulu, Hawaii. For more information call 808-537-3072.

At the Association of American Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting in Boston, March 25-29, 1998, the following sessions were sponsored by the Disability and Geography International Network.

Nation building: gender, race, and medical discourse I; Chair: TBA; Elizabeth Jepson, UCLA, Frontiers, hills and plains: representations of the "native" and landscape in nineteenth-century British India; Michael L. Dorn & Vincent DelCasino, University of Kentucky, Relations physical and moral: towards an historical phenomenology of medical geography's "two traditions"; David Matless, University of Nottingham, 'All Flesh is Grass': Organicism, Health and the English Body; Denis Lineham, University of Swansea, Wales, Body and Soul: Medicine and Civic Practice in the South Wales Coalfield; Discussant: Gerry Kearns.

Nation building: gender, race, and medical discourse II; Chair: TBA; Isabel Dyck, University of British Columbia, Making sense of difference: health care provision and the racialized body; Susan Craddock, University of Arizona, Engendered/endangered: tuberculosis, syphilis, and the project of nation building; Pyrs Gruffudd, University of Swansea, Wales, Designs for Health: Modernism and Social Reform in 1930s Britain; Doug Herman, University of Hawaii, Gone Overboard: Leprosy, "Race" and Colonialism in the Hawaiian Islands; Discussant: Michael Brown, University of Washington.

Understanding exclusion: the intersection of body, identity and place; Chair: Michael Dear, University of Southern California; Rex Clarke, University of Washington, Understanding exclusion in Yakima, Washington: a critical geographic approach; Deborah C. Park, Independent Researcher, Treatment, control and civic pride: framing an asylum landscape; Hester Parr, University of Dundee, New asylums in the community? Semi- institutional places and the formation of identity; Lisa M. Doyle, University of Reading, Spaced out? Notions of home and homelessness among homeless women; Robert D. Wilton, University of Southern California, Those people...Community opposition to group homes as fear of difference.

Marginalization and Society I: Asylums With(out) Walls; Chair: Deborah S. Metzel; John P. Radford, York University, Geographical roots of the asylum mentality; Deborah D. Metzel, University of Maryland, Inextricably linked: a recent geography of people with mental retardation; Pam Walker, Center for Human Policy, Syracuse University, Social meaning of place and people labeled mentally retarded; Discussant: Chris Philo.

Geography, disability and ethics; Chair: Rob Kitchin; Panelists: Vera Chouinard, Isabel Dyck, Deb Metzel, Deborah Park, Rob Wilton, Devva Kasnitz.

Geographies of blindness; Chair: Rob Wilton; Papers by Ruth Butler, Jim Marston, Dan Jacobson, Rob Kitchin, Mark Blades, Reginald Golledge, and Dan Jacobson.

For more complete information contact Michael L. Dorn, Department of Geography, 1457 Patterson Office Tower, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky 40508-1935, email mldorn00@ukcc.uky.edu on the Internet.

The Sociolinguistics Symposium 12 convened at the Institute of Education, University of London, 20, Bedford Way, London WC1 from 26th March 1998 to 28th March 1998. There was a colloquium on Disability, Language & Social Identity which addressed questions raised by claims about 'Deaf identity' - in the sense of an identity shaped by distinct linguistic and cultural forms - and other disabled identities, by focusing upon the role of language in discourse practices that construct and reflect such identities. The purpose was to assess the state of knowledge in this field

and to begin to explore: (a) the role of disabled people in effecting language change, (b) the extent to which communicative practices are defining in relation to disabled identities, (c) what (if any) patterns emerge from the cross-referencing of different groups in this regard, and (d) what kinds of research could tell us more about the role of language in constructing and performing disability. The provisional initial list of contributors included: Jenny Corbett, Mairian Corker, Susan Gregory, Susan Peters, Tom Shakespeare, and Graham Turner. Further details about the symposium as a whole can be found at web-site: <http://www.ie.ac.uk/ccs/ss12> on the Internet.

Enabling the Humanities: Disability Studies in Higher Education is a colloquium that was held April 17-18, 1998, at the Ohio State University. For more information on the colloquium browse the web site at <http://www.english.ohio-state.edu/eh/> or contact Brenda Brueggemann at brueggemann.1@osu.edu or Vic Mortimer at mortimer.9@osu.edu on the Internet.

The President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities presented Tapping Worker Potential Through Technology, their annual national conference, in New Orleans on May 6-7, 1998. For more information contact the President's Committee at 202-376-6200 (voice), 202-376-6868 (fax), or 202-376-6205 (TTY).

CHANGING BORDERS was an event by and for women with disabilities presented before this year's SDS conference. It was held on June 3, 1998, 9:30am-4:30pm, Oakland Marriott Hotel, San Francisco Bay Area.

The event recognized and celebrated the diversity of experiences that women with disabilities have. Mentoring across age, geographic boundaries, and other concerns will be the focus. Workshops will be held: Following and Funding Your Dream, Sexuality and Relationships, Mentoring and Peer Support Programs, and Using Technology for Information and Networking.

For more information, email: [Carrie Griffin, cgriff1@swarthmore.edu](mailto:Carrie.Griffin@swarthmore.edu) and the flyer is on-line at: <http://www.sccs.swarthmore.edu/~cgriffin/cbflyer.html> on the Internet.

The annual meeting of the Society for Disability Studies was held June 4-7, 1998, at the Oakland Marriott Hotel in Oakland, California. For more information contact the national headquarters at sdshq@utdallas.edu on the Internet.

Women and Disabilities: Celebrate, Motivate, Organize, and Activate was a conference to provide information and develop policy recommendations held June 9-11, 1998, in Detroit, Michigan. For more information call 313-577-2654 or fax 313-577-3770.

The National Federation of the Blind held its annual convention July 4-10, 1998, in Dallas/Fort Worth. For more information contact National Federation of the Blind, 1800 Johnson Street, Baltimore, MD 21230; 410-659-9314.

The American Council of the Blind held its annual convention July 4-11, 1998, in Orlando. For more information contact the American Council of the Blind, 1155 15th Street, N.W., Suite 720, Washington, D.C. 20005; 202-467-5081.

Hawaii's Sign Language Festival '98 will be held July 25, 1998, at Kapiolani Community College, Honolulu, Hawaii. For more information contact Ed Chevy at 808-926-4763 (TTY/V) or 808-924-9664 (FAX).